United Nations A/59/820–S/2005/355

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 June 2005

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 29
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 31 May 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus continue to support efforts to find a comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus issue within the framework of your good-offices mission and on the basis of the plan which is being referred to as the Annan plan. The Turkish side has clearly demonstrated its resolve in this regard, and will continue to do so. With that understanding, Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus will hold consultations with the United Nations delegation that will visit the region this week.

The rejection of the plan by the Greek Cypriot side in the referendum held in Cyprus on 24 April 2004 and the following accession of the Greek Cypriots to the European Union created an entirely new situation on the island. However, the Turkish Cypriots, though having fulfilled their responsibilities on the way to a solution by voting overwhelmingly in favour of the plan, continue to face difficulties arising from ongoing political, economic, cultural and social isolation.

Although, following the referendum, the European Union as well as certain international organizations and a number of countries on a bilateral basis made some efforts for the lifting of the unjust restrictions imposed on the Turkish Cypriots, unfortunately nothing substantial came out of those initiatives. Turkish Cypriots continue to live under difficult conditions, which they have been facing for the last 40 years.

In order to put an end to this inhumane situation and bring about normalcy in the day-to-day dealings between the two sides of the island, Turkey calls upon all relevant parties to simultaneously lift all restrictions. It will be recalled that the Turkish side already took constructive steps towards that end in the past. The unilateral decision of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to open border crossings on the island on 23 April 2003 and the decision of the Government of Turkey to facilitate the travel of Greek Cypriots to Turkey are only two examples in that regard.

In this context, on 30 May 2005, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Gül publicly made the following proposals, to be adopted

05-36931 (E) 020605

and implemented as a whole, which represent another concrete initiative for paving the way to reaching a just, durable and comprehensive solution:

(a) Free movement of people, goods and services to and from the Turkish Cypriot side, as well as between the North and the South;

(b) Lifting of total restrictions applied to all sea and airports, including direct flights;

(c) Elimination of restrictions regarding third-country nationals;

(d) Special arrangements for the direct inclusion of North Cyprus as an economic entity in the European Union customs union and for enjoyment of its full benefits by all Turkish Cypriots;

(e) Removal of all obstacles that prevent the Turkish Cypriot side from participating in international sports, culture and other activities.

The preceding proposals conform with the repeated calls of the international community, particularly by the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, made after the referendum, with a view to integrating the Turkish Cypriots with the world.

I would be grateful if the text of this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 29, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Baki **İlkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative